

ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: An Abbreviated History of the Twentieth-Century Korean Art Song and the Western Music Influence on the Composer, Youngsub Choi.

STUDENT: Hongteak Lim

DEGREE: Master of Music

COLLEGE: Fine Arts

DATE: July 2010

PAGES: 11

Approximately 1910 begins the appearance of the Korean art song as we now know it today. After western music arrived in Korea, the Korean art song quickly developed and spontaneously spread throughout the country. The political climate in Korea was such that the art song was a quasi “underground protest” aimed towards the Japanese invaders. Most of the texts of early twentieth-century Korean art songs contained concealed meanings directed against the Japanese rulers. Additionally, many song texts bemoaned the division of the country that had been split in two in 1953. When one studies the prose of the Korean art song, one learns much about the history of Korea during the twentieth century. Young-sub Choi was one of the first Korean composers who studied abroad, specifically in Germany and Austria. Upon his return to Korea, he began to compose art songs using the European musical style albeit with Korean texts. His style influenced the generation after him, and was especially influential in the development of Korean art song as it is known today.

This paper briefly outlined art song history in Korea and provides brief analysis of the influential song “The Longing Gungang Mountain” by Choi.